

Brethren All,

I wish to take this opportunity to express my deepest sympathy to everyone directly affected by the recent floods across Queensland and parts of Victoria. Many of us will have family, friends or work associates immersed directly in the heart of these devastations and I urge all Brethren to join with me in the spirit of Freemasonry by offering support in any way possible.

As the news broke of the floods in Queensland and consequently worsened each day, RWBro. Barry Reaper, PDGM, Grand Secretary and I have remained in close contact with the Grand Master of Freemasons Queensland, MWBro. Adrian Burton and we offered financial assistance to the people of Queensland on behalf of all Victorian Freemasons.

Freemasons Victoria Benevolent Fund contributed an initial \$100,000 to launch Freemasons Victoria 'Queensland Flood Relief Appeal' and we trust we can build upon this amount with the assistance of Lodge, individual and public donations. All monies raised will be directly contributed to the Queensland United Grand Lodge 'Grand Masters Flood Relief Appeal'.

All Victorian Lodge Secretaries have been notified regarding the appeal and how Lodges can contribute and I made a special public announcement on 3AW radio - 'Afternoons' with Dennis Walter last week.

Our hearts have remained heavy putting the finishing pieces together for this issue of *Engage! E-News* and I wish to dedicate our first issue in 2011 to all Australians that now find themselves in situations less fortunate than our own.

Yours in Freemasonry,

Vaughan Werner
Grand Master



Freemasons Victoria 'Queensland Flood Relief Appeal'



MEm Laurie Patterson, GZ sent in this photo of his niece, Ami on her property under threat in Forest Hills, Queensland.

Freemasons Victoria has established a **'Queensland Flood Relief Appeal'** that was officially launched on Thursday 13 January 2011 via Freemasons Victoria website. Our offer to raise funds for the United Grand Lodge of Queensland followed recent discussions between MWBro. Vaughan Werner and MWBro. Adrian Burton, the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland upon the onset of the floods.

The deepening flood crisis in both rural communities and throughout the city of Brisbane, will endure a long and arduous clean-up and recovery process for years to come. These devastating floods have been declared the biggest natural disaster ever experienced in the state of Queensland with the loss of human life, property, infrastructure, live-stock and the people of Queensland will face the on-going threat of disease and infections for weeks to come.

Our appeal was launched with an initial contribution of \$100,000 from the Benevolent Fund. As all Freemasons in Victoria will recall, our Brothers, along with the people of Queensland, significantly contributed to Freemasons Victoria's 'Grand Master Bushfire Appeal' in 2009/2010. We envisage all Victorian Brethren would want to reciprocate the financial support to Queensland families now facing similar devastation.

We envisage that each Lodge throughout Victoria will further build on this initial contribution of \$100,000 by raising funds on a Lodge by Lodge basis. It would not be unreasonable to expect that each Lodge could contribute a minimum of \$300. This appeal has also been opened to the Victorian public, including Freemasons Victoria's community partners and business associates.

The Freemasons Victoria 'Queensland Flood Relief Appeal' will donate 100% of the proceeds directly to the United Grand Lodge of Queensland, who through their Lodge networks, will distribute funds on a grassroots level to communities most in need. All donations will be tax deductible.

Lodge and personal donations can be made to the **Freemasons Victoria 'Queensland Flood Relief Appeal'** by cheque or following the links on Freemasons Victoria's website – www.freemasonsvic.net.au

"You may not know me, but if I was you, during these terrible times, facing an uncertain future, I know, I would want to know you. Just knowing you are there, supporting me in some small way, even in thought, would be enough for me to say, thank you my friend. With you by my side, I know, I will find the strength to carry on and see the light of a brighter day." Mark Richardson

Victorian Floods - Task Force Calling for Volunteers



As the flood crisis continues to worsen in Victoria, with more than 40 towns either inundated or bracing for the onset of floods, the Task Force is preparing a strategic operation to assist with the massive task of cleaning up the affected townships and properties in rural areas.

The clean-up and property re-fencing program will commence directly after the flood levels have subsided to ensure the operation will be effective and successful.

With more than 1,600 properties (to date) reported to be directly affected, the Task Force is calling for Freemason volunteers to be part of the 'Victorian Flood Response Unit' to assist in all areas of clean-up and rebuilding of the damaged properties.

For further information and to register as a volunteer, please call the Task Force Secretary WBro. Glen Clement On 0418 184 382 or email: glenclememtlogesa@gmail.com

Member Profile - Bro. Antony Ransome, JW



Bro. Antony Ransome, JW, Member of Point Nepean Lodge No. 371

After a period as a diplomat and teacher, Bro. Antony Ransome turned to a singing career in 1968, soon performing in Europe with orchestras like the New Philharmonia, the English Chamber Orchestra and the Prague Radio Symphony and participating in the Bath, Harrogate, Aldeburgh, Spitalfields and Convent Garden Festivals among others. He has appeared frequently on radio and television and in cathedrals, concert halls and opera houses (60 baritone roles) in Britain and Europe.

After returning to Australia in 2000, Bro. Antony continues to perform, teach, write and organise concerts, including artistically directing the Sorrento Autumn Music Days - an intimate concert series that will commence on 19 February at the Sorrento Masonic Centre.

At what age did you first discover your love for music?

At age 9, I joined the choir of St Oswalds, Glen Iris, where I remained when I had to choose between that and Cubs. A couple of years later, my aunt took me to a performance of Tosca - I've loved opera ever since.

Who were your first musical influences?

Colin Brumby at Glen Iris, George Logie-Smith at Melbourne University, Peter Pears in Britain, who recommended his own singing teacher, Lucie Manen. She also became my teacher.

What do you remember most about your first public performance?

One of my earliest big performances was Mahler's Songs of a Wayfarer in an ABC competition in Melbourne; the joy of singing with orchestra has never left me.

Was it a hard decision to leave your career as a diplomat to follow your musical dreams?

I enjoyed diplomacy, but I have never regretted my decision.

What inspired you to become a Freemason?

I joined in the early nineties in Bremen, Germany. It seemed a logical extension of my desire for personal development. When we say that we seek a better way of working together towards a better world, that does not mean that we always know how to achieve it. It simply means that we again and again practise it together, leading by example when possible.

What are your thoughts about music in Freemasonry?

An essential component. Look at the number of Masonic composers! I believe there is scope for much more varied music during the work in the Temple.

Has Freemasonry had an influence on your music career?

In a philosophical sense, certainly. A Masonic text I'll sing anywhere is 'Alle Menschen werden Brueder' (Beethoven). I'm a member of an international grouping of creative Masons called Pegasus. www.pegasus-kunst.de. In Germany, where I met many musical Brethren, I sang at a number of Grand Lodge functions.

When and how did the Sorrento Autumn Music Days come about?

We wanted to become more active as a Lodge and showcase our superb Lodge building. My experience came in handy. We bought a grand piano; this is our third season.

How do you attract such high calibre performers?

Mainly through personal contact. Professionals deserve to be paid satisfactorily. The Sorrento Masonic Centre provides a warm and lively acoustic owing to the classical proportions.

Why do you think Freemasonry is relevant today for young men to keep joining the Craft?

"The old icons (of the Freemasons), the square, level and plumb, are evidence of the persistence of a hope which will not see itself contradicted by anything: in the midst of established injustice to demand justice, in times of inequality to require equality, in the face of hostility to urge fraternity." (Siegfried Lenz). It is time to return to an understanding of the benefits of working together towards a sustainable future based on mutual respect and universal human values. Neither blinkered nationalism nor all-pervasive materialism belong here, rather the avoidance of harm to others and to our environment. Unless we are prepared to pursue this simple goal, there is little hope for our species.

Point Nepean Lodge No. 371 presents three classical music concerts



Caroline Almonte will perform at the Sorrento Masonic Centre on 11 June

The Sorrento Masonic Centre will be home this year to three more concerts of fine music: piano music, chamber music and excerpts from opera and musicals. Stefan Cassomenos (piano) will return on Saturday 19 February in a program of Beethoven, Mozart and Liszt. On Saturday 12 March Eddie Muliaumaseali'i and friends will also be returning with an entertaining mix of scenes from opera. A new face this year is the highly-regarded Caroline Almonte, superb in Mozart, who will be joined by the exciting young Emerald Hill String Quartet on Saturday 11 June in an arrangement of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 ('Elvira Madigan') and Schumann's evergreen Piano Quintet. They will be playing the Mozart from an old score in the possession of the series Artistic Director Antony Ransome, who says he is delighted that the arrangement is to get an airing in Sorrento: "It's a real rarity," he says.

These not-for-profit concerts will be a form of outreach and will raise consciousness to support necessary restoration and improvement of the historic Masonic Centre building in Point Nepean Road, Sorrento.

All the concerts commence at 8:00pm. Tickets are available from 5984 0652. For more information - www.sorrentoautumnmusicdays.com.

5 cents add up to making big differences for children's charities



Over the years, Freemasons in Gippsland have been saving their 5 cent pieces for many for children's cancer charities.

Over the years, members of the Gippsland Lodge No. 51 have joined in saving their 5 cent pieces and the first year raised \$100 for the VMMA's Cystic Fibrosis ride.

Currently the Gippsland Phoenix Masters Group have requested all Freemasons in Gippsland save their 5 cent pieces to raise money for young boy in Morwell who was rendered a quadriplegic after an operation. The Board of Benevolence have pledged to match every dollar raised on a 2 for 1 basis

The Gippsland Phoenix Masters Group is asking all Victorian Freemason Members to help raise money for various children's and cancer organisations by saving their 5 cent pieces and having their Lodge Secretary deposit the monies raised with the Grand Lodge Secretary during the Grand Installation of MWBro. Vaughan Werner on 19 March 2011.

5 cents can make add up to making a big difference to the lives of those who need it most. For more information, Email: WMBro. George Entwistle - gentwistle@impulse.net.au

Meet Australia's first Think Pink Living Centre Breast Care Nurse, proudly funded by Freemasons Victoria.



Think Pink Living Centre newly appointed Breast Care Nurse Ms Kathryn Wallace will care for over 400 patients each year

Ms Kathryn Wallace has officially commenced her position as Australia's first full-time funded Breast Care Nurse (BCN) at the Think Pink Foundation Living Centre located at 390 St Kilda Road, Melbourne. Kathryn's appointment follows Freemason's Victoria's Board of Benevolence pledging \$75,000 a year for the next three years.

Kathryn has worked primarily in women's health specialising in Breast Cancer Care for approximately 18 years. Kathryn's passion has been to empower and support women and their families throughout their breast cancer journey. Throughout the years, working in both the acute care and community settings Kathryn has reached those in need throughout all stages of their cancer experience. Kathryn is a qualified Breast Care Nurse, highly experienced and respected by both her health professional peers and patients/families she cares for. Kathryn's other great passions are her three beautiful children.

Breast Care Nurse – The Living Centre

The primary role of The Living Centre Breast Care Nurse (BCN) is to provide quality, holistic supportive care for people diagnosed with breast cancer and their families who visit or contact the centre. Providing individualised informal counselling, emotional and practical support will be a major component of this vital role. Kathryn will be responsible for developing and facilitating a range of educational and support programs aimed at empowering patients and their carers during the breast cancer journey and beyond. This position will also be a valuable resource for health professionals in the wider Victorian community.

Over the coming months we look forward to sharing the journey with Kathryn. For more information www.thinkpink.org.au



Living Centre Breast Care Nurse
Proudly Funded by



Freemasons Victoria welcomes aboard WBro. Bruce Cowie, PJGD – Manager Masonic Services



On 17 January, WBro. Bruce Cowie, PJGD will take on the challenging role of Manager Masonic Services at Freemasons Victoria.

Bruce spent over 25 years with the ANZ Bank in a variety of Management roles and most recently has been the Executive Officer at Chamar Pty Ltd where he occupied the positions of Grand Scribe Ezra for Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Victoria and the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria.

Bruce is a past Master of Lodge Elata, a past Master of the Whitehorse Mark Lodge, a Past First Principal of the Whitehorse Chapter and a Past Commander in the Royal Ark Mariners. He is also a member of a number of other Masonic Orders that meet in Victoria.

Bruce was born in Plymouth (England) and educated in Adelaide where he graduated as a Bachelor of Business at the SA Institute of Technology. He is also a member of the International Churchill Society.

Bruce is married to Jan, and his interests apart from Freemasonry, are reading (particularly historical and biographical works), watching crime and psychological thriller movies and video editing (he edited the 2008 and 2009 Grand Craft Installation DVDs). To contact Bruce, email: cowie@freemasonsvic.net.au
Congratulations WBro. Bruce.

Freemasons Victoria new Project Manager – RWBro. Geoff Lambe



RWBro. Geoff Lambe has moved from his role as Manager Masonic Services to take up an appointment as a Project Manager. In his new role, Geoff will work in close association with consultants Charter Keck Cramer in assessing the suitability and development of selected Masonic properties.

Geoff is a Fellow of the Australian Property Institute and Real Estate Institute of Victoria. Together with his Masonic background this will provide him with the skills and qualifications to excel in this new and challenging role.

Prior to his appointment as minute Secretary for the Board of General Purposes, Geoff served as a member of the Board of General Purposes for five years. Geoff is looking forward to his new role. Email: lambe@freemasonsvic.net.au

WANTED - Pregnant woman for 'Cleft Lip' study program



Do you have a wife, partner, daughter, granddaughter or friend who is pregnant and may like to be a part of an investigation study to help determine the cause of *cleft lip and palate* in children?

This birth anomaly affects one in every 600 children born in Australia. To conduct this important study, fifty women whose ultrasounds have no anomalies and fifty women who have been diagnosed as carrying a foetus with a cleft are required.

By being part of this study, participants will be helping thousands of other women, children and their families that will be affected by the cleft condition in Australia and around the world.

Other benefits for participants include:

- **Receiving a comprehensive blood test.**
- **Receiving a hair tissue mineral analysis.**
- **Receiving a full urine analysis.**
- **Receiving a DNA saliva analysis for both the mother and child, if the child has been diagnosed with a cleft.**
- **The provision of test results to the mother's medical provider (with her consent).**

If you know of anyone who may like to participate in the important program or have any further queries, please contact: WBro. Graeme Wallace OAM on 0418 248 983 or graemew@bigpond.net.au

Secretaries – keep in touch with your unaffiliated Brothers!

Freemasons Victoria now has several mediums for Brothers to stay in touch. Even if a Brother is 'unaffiliated', he will always be a Freemason in his heart, and probably has a desire to stay informed about news and events concerning Freemasonry in Victoria. Masters and Secretaries, we call on you to make contact with your unaffiliated Brethren and offer them the communication tools available to them:

- Facebook (search for Freemasons Victoria) – [Click here](#).
- Twitter (search for Freemasons Victoria) – [Click here](#).
- Engage! e-newsletter: submit an email address to support@freemasonsvic.net.au to receive this fortnightly publication from Grand Lodge.
- Magazine: submit an address to richardson@freemasonsvic.net.au to receive the quarterly magazine.

You never know, some of these unaffiliated members may decide to rejoin you. In the modern world, it's all about 'being connected'.

Calendar of Events

The six-monthly Grand Lodge 'Calendar of Events' (**January – June 2011**) is now available on-line on Freemasons Victoria's homepage on the internet. A variety of Freemasons events have been published to promote our Craft to the public, engage prospective members and reinvigorate the current membership. The latest calendar of events features events organised at a Lodge, District and statewide levels and open to both Freemasons and/or non- Freemasons.

For event submissions for the June to December 2011 period, please submit via email to Lena Way at way@freemasonsvic.net.au

Help send Lena packing



Our recently married Manager Membership Services, Lena Way and her husband Ben, are in the running to win *Bride to Be* magazine's Wedding of the Year. If they win December's competition based on the number of votes they receive, they could win a trip to Tahiti! Vote for Lena by [clicking here](#).

Announcement Vaughan's Wedding Anniversary



A Grand Celebration - Freemasons Victoria wishes to congratulate Vaughan and Bev Werner on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Vaughan and Bev recently celebrated their golden anniversary with family and close friends. Congratulations Vaughan and Bev.

Shop @ Freemasons Victoria's new online e-store



As you might already know, we have recently launched our very own Freemasons Victoria E-Store. There are several ways you can make purchases from the e-store:

- Purchase online: Log in to www.freemasonsvic.net.au and login as a member to access the e-store.
- Over the phone: call Reception on (03) 9411 0111 and place an order and pay via credit card or send a cheque.
- Make purchases over the counter at the Grand Lodge (300 Albert Street, East Melbourne) via cash, cheque or credit card payments.

If you do not have an account to login to the e-store, please email support@freemasonsvic.net.au with your full name and Lodge details and we will create an account for you.



FREEMASONS
Victoria

Freemasons in the CBD

Quarterly Luncheon

MWBro. Vaughan Werner Grand Master & RWBro. Bob Jones Deputy Grand Master invite you and a guest to the quarterly 'Freemasons in the CBD' luncheon for Freemasons who work or live in the CBD.

Special Guest Speaker:

Mark Bolton: "From football to tackling youth homelessness"

After 124 games and an outstanding ten year career with Essendon Football Club, Mark Bolton is dedicating his career to tackling youth homelessness. After retiring from footy in 2007, Mark has been the driving force behind the development of 'Ladder', a charity created by the AFL Players' Association and the AFL Foundation to address the issue of youth homelessness across Australia.

By harnessing the AFL's power for change, Ladder has the bold vision of creating a youth homelessness facility in every state where AFL football is played.

Ladder opened its first facility in 2009 in Collingwood, providing accommodation, intensive case management and the opportunity for mentoring, living skills programs, work experience, peer support and leadership programs.

Mark holds a Bachelor of Applied Science and recently completed his Masters of Property and Construction degree at the University of Melbourne. He is now the General Manager of Ladder.

When: Tuesday 22 February

**Where: Ground Floor Function Room Morgans at 401
401 Collins Street, Melbourne**

Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Tickets: \$50.00 (includes two-course lunch and beverages)

What: Show your true colours, wear your footy team's colours!

This event is open to all Freemasons plus one guest.

Guest Speaker: Mark Bolton



Bookings essential
RSVP by 17 February to Donna De La Rue:
delarue@freemasonsvic.net.au or (03) 9411 0103